

Missouri FFA Today

March/April 2002

Making the Difference

By Erica Coble

Ag Education opens doors for career seekers

“My FFA advisor has made a difference in my life, so someday, I want to do the same and make a difference in the lives of other FFA members,” says Sarah Abbot, freshman agricultural education major at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Hundreds of students across Missouri are seeing the benefits and rewards of a career in agricultural education. Training future leaders in agriculture, making a positive difference in the lives of young people and building premier leadership, personal growth and career success in FFA members are just a few of the exciting possibilities of an agricultural education career.

The demand for agricultural educa-



Meadville Ag Ed Instructor Steven Rogers (I) assists students with a project. Ag Education is one of the fastest growing careers in the industry.

tors is growing rapidly in Missouri and across the nation. According to the August 2001 issue of the Mizzou Ag Educator program expansion and retirement has played a big role in the increasing need for agricultural instructors. In the past eight years, 94 new agricultural teaching positions have been added to Missouri's public schools due to program expansion alone. On the average, Missouri adds three to five new agricultural education programs every year.

To address the high demand for ag teachers, the state agricultural education staff is teaming up with colleges and universities across Missouri to recruit students interested and suited for a teaching career.

“For the past five to seven years, we have asked teachers to identify students on the membership roster who

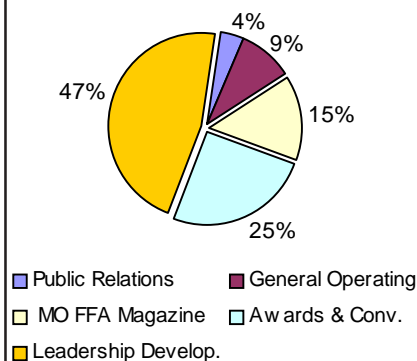
are prospective agricultural educators. Those students are then contacted by a university or a member of the state staff and encouraged to consider an agricultural education career,” says Dr. Steve Brown, State FFA executive secretary.

Continued on Page F

What's in this issue

Jabber with Jamie.....	B
Convention Highlights.....	D
Makin' It Real.....	F
FFA Calendar.....	G
Chapter Chatter.....	G

How Your State FFA Dues Are Invested!



March/April 2002

Jabber from Jamie...The Choice Is Yours

When I was a freshman in high school, I enrolled in Ag Science I and joined FFA because I thought that was what I was supposed to do since I was a farm girl and all of my friends were doing the same thing. I had no idea what opportunities, challenges and friends would come my way over the next few years. I have had the chance to meet President George W. Bush (twice) and to stay in touch with friends I met at FFA camp my freshman year. FFA has taken me places - from seeing the ocean for the first time with some of my best friends to touring Missouri agribusinesses and farms with state senators and representatives. I never imagined that an organization and its members could make such an impact on my life. As I have trav-



Jamie Lile
State President

eled the past few months, I have met so many of you from across the state and I have been blessed by new friendships.

I almost missed out on these opportunities because when I first joined FFA I thought that all I needed to do was join. I didn't realize the potential that I had as an FFA member. I am very thankful that I had an advisor that encouraged me to participate in new activities and fellow members who wanted to make our chapter a success.

Sometimes we miss out on opportunities to do something great in our own lives or those around us because we don't make the choice to take that extra step. FFA members, the choice is yours... What decision will you make?

You have the choice to compete on a contest team, enter a public speaking contest, run for offices, get involved in your school and community, to stand up for what you believe in, and to get up and try again when things don't work out the way you want them to.

The choice is yours to grasp all of these opportunities and so much more, and you also have the choice of how much effort to exert.

Will you join that contest team, or will you join that contest team and give 110% by studying, going to

Continued on Page F

2001/2002

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9	Jamie Lile - President Strafford FFA
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8	Erica Coble - Secretary Dadeville FFA
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March 16...SE District
CDE's - SEMO,
Cape Girardeau

March 19...SE District
CDE's - Dexter

March 22...SE District
CDE's - Three Rivers
Community College

March 23...SE District
CDE's - SEMO,
Cape Girardeau

March 25...NE District
FFA/Ag Sales CDE's -
Monroe City

April 2...Central District
Ag CDE's - CMSU,
Warrensburg

April 2...NW District
CDE's - NWMSU,
Maryville

April 2 & 4...SC District
Contests - Rolla

April 3...NE District
CDE's - Columbia

April 4...Central District
FFA & Ag Sales -
CMSU, Warrensburg

April 4...NW District FFA
CDE's - Cameron

April 8...SW District
Contests - SMSU,
Springfield

April 9...SW District
Contests - SMSU,
Springfield

State Convention Highlights

The 74th Missouri FFA Convention is set to kick off April 18-19 at the Hearn Center in Columbia, Mo. This year's event promises to bring action-packed, exciting packed sessions to FFA members and visitors alike.

Headlining the convention will be Rhett Laubach. A former State FFA Officer from Oklahoma, Laubach is a



Rhett Laubach

full-time professional speaker and author and is active in the Oklahoma and National Speakers Associations. He is also operator of YourNextSpeaker. His programs are high energy, interactive and filled with educational leadership and life skills and learning.

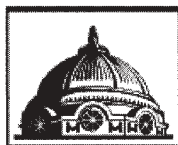
Missouri FFA also welcomes National FFA Officer Elio Chiarelli, Jr. As the Eastern Region Vice President, Chiarelli will meet thousands of FFA members during his year of service as he and the five officers on his team each travel more than 100,000 miles promoting agricultural education and FFA. Following his term, Chiarelli will



Elio Chiarelli, Jr.

Continued On Page E

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March/April 2002

Makin' It Real

By Erica Coble

“There's a look at the markets. Dick Marshall, Brownfield Network.” You know his name and you've heard his voice. For a report on livestock markets, he has most likely been your source. He is Dick Marshall, assistant farm director for the Brownfield Network. What you may not know about this well-known radio personality is the story of how his involvement in FFA led him to a successful 16-year career in the farm broadcasting industry.

Marshall remembers the first time he thought about joining the FFA when he was in the eighth grade. His parents and older brother had heard a state officer speak at their school and came home excited about what the FFA organization had to of-

fer. That excitement motivated Marshall to take the first step and join

Ben (l) and
Dick (r)
Marshall



the organization that would have a tremendous impact on his life. As a freshman, he became an active member of the Jamestown FFA Chapter.

“FFA is truly the best organization for students to be involved in. It was something that I enjoyed and learned so much from,” recalls Marshall.

One of the experiences that Marshall valued the most as an FFA member was the opportunity he had to serve as a State FFA Officer. Marshall was the State Vice President from Area 6 in 1972-73. It was that experience that gave Marshall his start in the Brownfield Network.

In a Jamestown coffee shop in 1986, Marshall had heard that Derry Brownfield of the Brownfield Network was looking for a farm broadcaster. Marshall, who was in need of a new job, was hired, despite his lack of ex-

Continued on Page H

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State Convention Highlights - Continued from Page C

return to Pennsylvania State University as a sophomore double-majoring in agricultural and extension education and environmental science. He plans to become an agriculture teacher and hopes to start an FFA chapter in an urban setting.

Contributors to the new FFA State Fair Building will also be recognized during the convention.

FFA members attending the second annual Career Show will want to pay special attention to Star Exhibitor booths in the show. At those booths, members can pick up tickets to enter the new computer system give-away. Current FFA members are eligible and must be present to win at 2:45 p.m. during the show. This year's Career Show workshop will feature a presentation by Ralph Duren, Missouri Department of Conservation. He

brings his expertise in animal sounds and story telling.

Three workshops will be featured Thursday afternoon, April 18 during the convention. A session with Elio Chiarelli, National FFA eastern region vice president, will be offered as well as programs with Doug Keuker, past National FFA officer, and Rhett Laubach, professional speaker.

Star Farmer and Star in Agribusiness awards will be presented and more than 600 state FFA degree recipients (based upon 3% of Missouri FFA membership) will also be recognized Friday evening, April 19. Some 7,000 FFA members, parents and guests are expected to attend.

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Making the Difference Continued From Page A

Brown says the effort has been successful because to this point, all positions have been filled.

Colleges and universities with agricultural education programs across the state have worked hard to recruit students into the program.

Dr. Bryan Garton, associate professor of agricultural education at MU has seen a growth in the number of students pursuing a degree in the university's program.

"Students find agricultural education to be a very diverse degree that allows the flexibility of pursuing a variety of options. The combination of verbal communication skills and the diversity of agriculture that is taught to our students, opens up many doors of opportunity," explains Dr. Garton.

Dr. Randall Andreason, assistant agricultural education professor at

Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield chose a career in agricultural education despite the fact he never grew up in the FFA. Andreason says that his interest in youth and agriculture made teaching a natural choice.

"In the current environment, there are great placement opportunities since the demand is so high for teachers. Teaching agriculture is a very good job to have in the agriculture field because it allows students individuality and flexibility," says Dr. Andreason.

At Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, agricultural education is the fastest growing major in the entire university. This trend is seen in colleges and universities across Missouri. Dr. Marvin Hoskey, assistant professor of agricultural education at NWMSU says the increased enrollment in agricultural education across the state is due in part to promotional efforts made by the National FFA and the joint state staff in agricultural education.

"As a profession, we had to wake up

and realize the need for agricultural educators was growing and we had to do something to meet the demand. Agricultural education is truly a degree that combines the best of all worlds and we want students to realize it has great potential for them," notes Dr. Hoskey.

Not only is the demand for teachers growing, but also the number of students who desire to teach. An increasing number of students are seeing the benefits of a career in agricultural education. The career gives them the opportunity to stay involved in the FFA and also gives them the chance to help guide the future of the organization.

Agricultural education was an easy choice for Renea Honeycutt, a freshman at the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo.

"I want to give back to the FFA what it has given to me and hope to someday be an agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor," says Honeycutt.

Few people have the opportunity to impact the lives of youth as do agricultural educators. Whether it's coming in early or staying up late to work

Continued On Next Page



Jabber from Jamie - The Choice Is Yours

Continued From Page B

practice contests and encouraging your fellow teammates? Will you just be a member of your local chapter, or will you run for a chapter, area or state office and encourage others in your chapter to do the same? Will you let others discourage you from getting involved, or will you run for that class office, try out for the basketball team and study for that A in biology like you want to? Will you have values and hold them inside, or will you lead the way in living a good life? Will you let someone else determine what you believe in, or will you be an example and help guide others in making right

choices?

You can decide now that you will get involved no matter what others say and stand up for what you believe in when no one else does, or you can take the risk. If we don't decide what kind of people we want to be now, then we may be faced with regrets - situations that we don't know how to handle and we may compromise our beliefs. Life itself is all about choices.

The choice is yours... what will you do?

FFA members I believe in you, and the power that you have to "Make it Happen."

Making the Difference

Continued From Previous Page

with a contest team, building self-esteem in youth, or simply just taking the time to listen, ag teachers hold a special place in the lives of thousands of FFA members.

If you think you are interested in an exciting and motivating career in agricultural education, contact your local advisor and look into the variety of degree programs offered in our state. You can also log onto www.ffa.org and click on the "Teach Agriculture" option to find out more information.



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Chapter Chatter

Northwest District - North Andrew

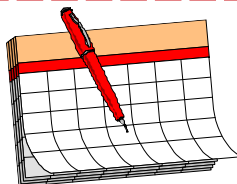
North Andrew FFA members are busy working in two greenhouses at the school. One is used for horticulture classes while the other serves as an aquaculture lab - complete with both a 400 gallon and an 800 gallon tank.

Northeast District - Ralls Co., Center

Members of the Ralls Co. FFA Chapter hold an Ag Awareness Day where livestock are displayed and state agencies participate, giving elementary and junior high students an opportunity to learn. The event takes place during FFA week.

South Central District - Herman

FFA members at Herman recently helped local geriatric patients in town by taking them on a hayride for a community service project. Members also completed demonstrations for second grade students on agricultural activities which take place in the fall - such as wood cutting, trapping and making homemade apple butter.



FFA Calendar

April

- 18-19 Missouri FFA Conv. - Columbia
- 19 State FFA Alumni Convention - Columbia
- 24 Northwest District Envirothon - St. Joseph

May

- 1 MU Interscholastic Events CDE Schol. Apps. DUE
- 15 Honorary Americian Degree Apps. DUE
- 31 Teacher/Student Agri-Science Apps. DUE

- 1 Mo. Dept. of Ag Scholarship Applications DUE
- 2 College of the Ozarks Contest Workshops - Point Lookout
- 9 Mo. Dept. of Ag Lvstk Grading/Judging Contest - Columbia
- 18-19 Southwest Center Contest Workshops - Mount Vernon
- 20 NCMC Ag Club Contests - Trenton
- 21 Crowder Aggie Day - Neosho

Central District - Tipton

FFA members at Tipton recently held a "pitch" card game tournament as well as a washerboard tournament. The event took place during FFA week and was open to both chapter members and their guests.

Southeast District - Holcomb

Holcomb FFA members conducted an Ag Day during FFA week. During the event, FFA members "adopt" a student in grades K-3. Those students learn about livestock and other agriculture. Kindergartners participate in a coloring contest with the top three winning an FFA prize.

Southwest District - Chadwick

Members of the Chadwick FFA Chapter are busy earning money for the St. Jude's Children's Miracle Network. The class collecting the most money wins a pizza and pop party, while the top FFA chapter in the area will present their check to St. Jude's sponsor KTTS Radio. Students from the top chapter will also be invited to be on the radio to tell about their project.

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March/April 2002

Makin' It Real

Continued From Page D

perience, for the reason that he had been a state FFA officer.

"It is amazing how my involvement in the FFA helped me land a job. Brownfield hired me because he knew that FFA had instilled in me strong communication and leadership skills, two things that are very important to employers," explains Marshall.

Marshall's responsibilities as the assistant farm director for the Brownfield Network include broadcasting 21 reports a day. He reports prices from the Chicago Board of Trade and Mercantile Exchange eight to nine times a day. The Brownfield Network has 232 affiliate stations. Marshall reports are heard in places such as South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Missouri.

Even though Marshall is no longer an active member of the FFA, he is still an active supporter of the organization. He often speaks to campers during State FFA Camp and works with FFA members in a number of other events. Marshall plays an extremely active role in the FFA as a parent, too. Both of his two children, Christen, 21, and Ben, 19, have taken on leadership roles in the FFA.

The Missouri State FFA Convention in April will be a special time for Marshall to see how FFA has made such an impact on his family. Marshall's son, Ben, is currently serving as a state FFA officer and owes much of his success to his father's influence.

Ben, a freshman agricultural education major at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is serving as the State FFA Vice President from Area 6 almost 30 years exactly after his father.

"Growing up with a father who knew what it took to be successful in the FFA, has really inspired me and helped me to become a leader in this

organization. The FFA has changed a lot since my dad has been an officer, but we both still have the same love and passion for this organization," notes Ben Marshall.

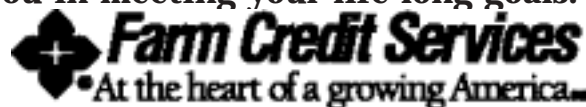
Dick Marshall encourages youth of all backgrounds to take advantage of the opportunities that FFA has to offer young people.

"Leadership and speaking ability are two of the most important qualities that employers look for when they hire.

FFA trains members to develop those qualities, therefore making them stronger candidates for job positions. FFA offers so much and I really encourage people to don't be afraid to try something new," Marshall explains.

The next time you hear the voice of Dick Marshall coming in on your radio, remember his story of success. He is living proof of how the FFA has the power to "Make it Real" in the lives of FFA member across the state.

As Missouri FFA celebrates another year, Farm Credit Services salutes these talented young men and women. They are today's youth and tomorrow's leaders. Call us or visit our website at www.farmcredit.com to learn what FCS has available to assist you in meeting your life long goals.



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